Scheme is a rural infrastructural development programme under which physical progress is monitored in terms of the number of works taken up and completed.

(c) The Programmes are being reviewed on the basis of the monthly reports received from States/UTs. Senior Officers of the rank of Deputy Secretaries and above in the Ministry have been appointed as Area Officers for different States/UTs. These Area Officers visit the allotted States/UTs from time to time and inspect actual implementation of the Programmes in the field. The Programmes are also reviewed at meetings with the State Secretaries of Rural Development. In the meetings, it is emphasised that all efforts should be made to achieve the targets in full.

Proposal to bring 86 lakh destitute population under NOAPS

1924. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rural Development Ministry has sent a proposal to Government to cover 86 lakh destitute population of over 65 years of age under the National Old Age Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, how much money did the Rural Development Ministry demand from Government this year;

(c) does Government have the financial resources to implement such massive financial schemes without the assistance of the State Government; and

(d) the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) is under implementation *w.e.f.* August, 1995 as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which destitute persons of 65 years of age and above are provided old age pension at the rate of Rs. 75/- per month. The budget provision for the Scheme is Rs. 465 crores for the year 2001-02.